

WYCOMBE GO TWO BETTER

Wycombe 3, Oxford City 1

IN torrential rain during a thunderstorm, which soon made a mud bath of the ground at High Wycombe, Oxford City were unlucky not to take at least one of the Isthmian League points from Wanderers.

Oxford, controlling the ball better, claimed three parts of the play, but failed to turn superior approach work to advantage.

Despite the conditions, the standard of play by both sides was remarkably high.

Bates gave Wycombe the lead after six minutes, but Oxford, well served by their wing halves, then took the initiative and nine minutes later, 18-year-old left-winger Jack Woodley equalised from 20 yards.

For long periods the home defence was under fierce siege and both Howlett and Bricknell—the pick of a fast-moving, enterprising Oxford front line—were unlucky not to find the mark.

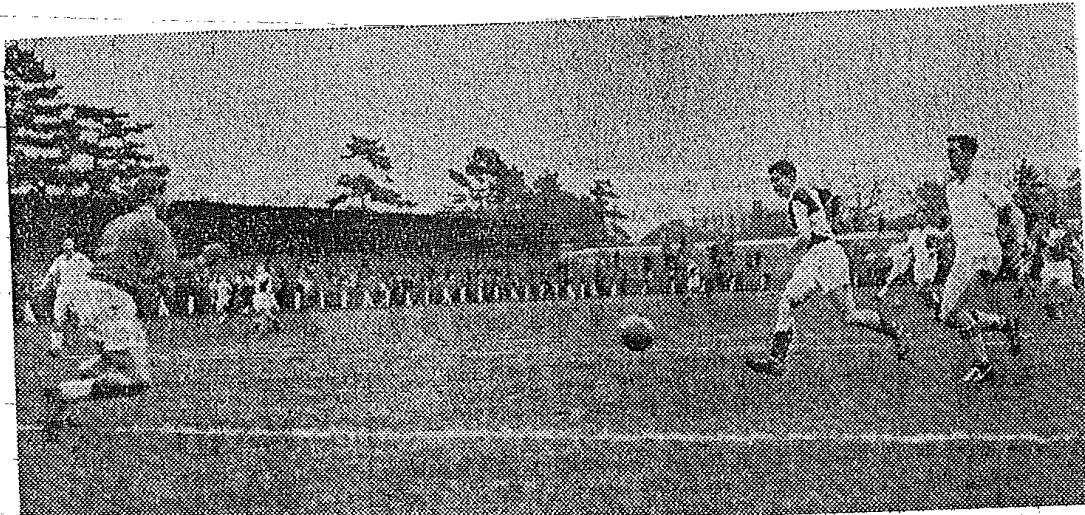
It was against the run of play when left-half Johnny Weaver, the best half on the field, restored Wycombe's lead with a 40-yard free kick which completely deceived goalkeeper Staniland.

Then Bricknell netted for Oxford but he was ruled offside, and Wycombe were lucky to cross over 2-1 up.

Wycombe increased their lead in the first minute of the second half when Trott converted a centre by Free before the Oxford defence had time to settle down.

Subsequently, however, the busy City halves and backs kept the efforts of the Wycombe marksmen Bates, Atkins, and Trott mostly at long range and, moving the ball better in the quagmire, regained the upper hand.

The Wanderers, often defending desperately, were lucky to survive several hectic scrambles on their goal-line, and both Howlett and Bricknell missed easy chances for Oxford.



Paul Bates opens the scoring for Wycombe Wanderers in their Boxing Day match against Oxford City.